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Economic and Social Council

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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fortieth session (Part II)
21-29 August 2000
Item 2 of the agenda

Proposed programme of work

Note by the Secretariat

Monday, 21 August

10 a.m.

1. Opening of the second part of the fortieth session
2. Organization of work

   Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work of the Committee (E/AC.51/2000/L.7)
3. Programme questions

   (c) Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

   Report of the Secretary-General on the outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/55/...)

Introduction and general discussion

3 p.m.

Informal consultations on:

1. Item 3: Programme questions

   (b) Proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

   Programme 7: Economic and social affairs

   Programme 19: Human rights

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Tuesday, 22 August

10 a.m.

Item 3: Programme questions

(c) Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Continuation and conclusion of general discussion

3 p.m.

Informal consultations on:

Item 3: Programme questions

(b) Proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

Programme 7: Economic and social affairs

Programme 19: Human rights

Wednesday, 23 August

10 a.m.

Informal consultations on:

Item 6: Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate

3 p.m.

Informal consultations on:

Item 3: Programme questions

(a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1998-1999

Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1998-1999 (A/55/73)

Report of the Secretary-General on ways in which the full implementation and the quality of mandated programmes and activities could be ensured and could be better assessed by and reported to Member States (A/55/85)

Thursday, 24 August

10 a.m. *Informal consultations on:*

Item 5: Report of the Joint Inspection Unit

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on private sector involvement and cooperation with the United Nations system (A/54/700) and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon (A/54/700/Add.1)

3 p.m. *Informal consultations on:*

Item 3: Programme questions

(c) Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Report of the Secretary-General on the outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/55/...)

Friday, 25 August

10 a.m. *Informal consultations on:*

Item 3: Programme questions

(a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1998-1999

Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1998-1999 (A/55/73)

Report of the Secretary-General on ways in which the full implementation and the quality of mandated programmes and activities could be ensured and could be better assessed by and reported to Member States (A/55/85)

3 p.m. *Informal consultations on:*

Item 3: Programme questions

(c) Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Report of the Secretary-General on the outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/55/...)

Monday, 28 August

10 a.m. and 3 p.m. *Informal consultations on:*

Item 3: Programme questions

(c) Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Report of the Secretary-General on the outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/55/...)

Tuesday, 29 August

10 a.m. *Informal consultations on:*

Outstanding issues

3 p.m. Item 8: Adoption of the report of the Committee on the work of the second part of its fortieth session

Closure of the fortieth session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fortieth session (Part II)
21-29 August 2000

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Amjad Hussain B. **Sial** (Pakistan)

I. Organization of the session

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination held the second part of its fortieth session at United Nations Headquarters from 21 to 29 August 2000. It held three formal meetings (28-30th meetings) and a number of informal consultations.

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the second part of its fortieth session, adopted by the Committee at its 27th meeting, on 1 July 2000, is reproduced in annex I.

B. Members of the Bureau

Chairman:
Mr. Michel Tommo Monthe (Cameroon)

Vice-Chairmen:
Mrs. Renata Archini de Giovanni (Italy)
Ms. Marta Peña Jaramillo (Mexico)
Mr. Sergiy L. Yampolsky (Ukraine)

Rapporteur:
Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial (Pakistan)

C. Attendance

3. The following States members of the Committee were represented:

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Argentina
Bahamas
Bangladesh
Benin
Brazil
Cameroon
China
Comoros
Cuba
Egypt
France
Gabon
Germany
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Italy
Japan
Mauritania
Mexico
Pakistan
Peru
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Russian Federation
San Marino
Uganda
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uruguay
Zambia
Zimbabwe

4. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Austria
Croatia
Finland
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Morocco
Syrian Arab Republic

5. The following specialized agencies were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

6. The Controller and senior officials of the United Nations Secretariat participated in the work of the Committee.

D. Documentation

7. The list of documents before the Committee at the second part of the fortieth session is set out in annex II.

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

8. At its 30th meeting, on 29 August 2000, the Committee adopted the draft report on the work of the second part of its fortieth session (E/AC.51/2000/L.8 and Add.1 to 7).

Annex I

Agenda for the second part of the fortieth session of the Committee

1. Organization of work. [2]
2. Programme questions: [3]
   (a) Programme planning
      1. Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1998-1999;
      2. Ways in which the full implementation and quality of mandated programmes and activities could be ensured and could be better assessed by and reported to Member States;
   (b) Proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005;
      Programme 7: Economic and social affairs
      Programme 19: Human rights
   (c) Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.
3. Report of the Joint Inspection Unit. [5]
4. Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate. [6]
5. Adoption of the report of the Committee on the second part of its fortieth session. [8]

Annex II

List of documents before the Committee at the second part of its fortieth session

A/54/700	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Private sector involvement and cooperation with the United Nations system"
A/54/700/Add.1	Comments by the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Private sector involvement and cooperation with the United Nations system"
A/55/6 (Programme 7)	Proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005: economic and social affairs
A/55/6 (Programme 19)	Proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005: human rights
A/55/73	Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1998-1999
A/55/85	Report of the Secretary-General on ways in which the full implementation and the quality of mandated programmes and activities could be ensured and could be better assessed by and reported to Member States
A/55/186	Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2002-2003
E/AC.51/2000/L.7	Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work for the second part of the fortieth session of the Committee
E/AC.51/2000/L.8 and Add.1 to 7	Draft report
E/AC.51/2000/INF.2	List of delegations

United Nations E/AC.51/2000/L.8/Add.1

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Fortieth session (Part II)
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Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Amjad Hussain B. **Sial** (Pakistan)

Programme questions: programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1998-1999 (item 3 (a))

1. At its 25th and 26th meetings, on 26 June 2000, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1998-1999 (A/55/73).

2. The Under-Secretary-General for the Office of Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. Concerns were voiced over the late submission of the report because it reduced the ability of delegations to analyse and present views on the report in a comprehensive manner.

4. Appreciation was expressed regarding the improved quality of the report, which provided a better basis from which to assess the results achieved from the implementation of mandated activities and helped programme managers and Member States to apply the lessons learned to the following biennium and to improve programme performance. Appreciation was also expressed for the inclusion of qualitative assessments, as mandated by General Assembly resolution 53/207, as well as the analytical approach applied to the evaluation of the significant volume of data collected. In that regard, it was noted that the report contained some useful qualitative evidence of programme performance and impact, especially from the use of modern technologies, the specific and quantified evidence of the number of requests for assistance and their impact, and achievements backed by concrete indicators. Future programme performance reports should accentuate both the

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positive and the negative aspects of the impact of implemented outputs, and indicate areas for improvement as well as successes, with clear evidence of achievements.

5. The Committee considered that the overall rate of implementation of 88 per cent, the highest level in a decade, was a clear indication that the Secretary-General's reform initiatives had benefited the Organization and noted that, where implementation rates were relatively low, it was explained as being the result of either legislative decisions or programmatic changes. In that regard, the view was expressed that it was the responsibility of programme managers to use resources provided to them by Member States in the programme budget to achieve full implementation of mandates. It was stressed that, in agreeing to the budget, Member States provided what they considered to be adequate resources to implement mandated activities fully and, therefore, programme managers had to use those resources optimally to achieve the objectives set by Member States. In that regard, programme managers could only achieve full implementation of mandated activities if they clearly knew what Member States wanted them to do. The clarity and transparency on the part of programme managers would allow Member States to assess whether there had been full implementation or not, whether resources were provided at the right level and to the right areas and whether the orientation of programmes should be redirected. It was noted that some departments had achieved rates of implementation beyond the 100 per cent mark while others did not fully implement their programme of work. It was also observed that the report did not contain adequate information on mandates that were not implemented for lack of resources. The view was expressed that more information on the impact of limited resources on programme implementation, as well as emphasis on what affected programme implementation, with suggestions for remedial measures to be taken, would have been useful.

6. Concerns were expressed regarding whether the terminations, especially those decided by programme managers, were carried out in accordance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. Concern was also expressed that a total of 1,732 outputs were added at the initiative of the Secretariat, when the implementation of mandated outputs by Member States should have been given priority. With regard to the further postponement of carried-over outputs and their continuing relevance, it was stated that that consideration should be taken into account in the preparation of future budgets and medium-term plans. Concern was also expressed about the level of dependency on extrabudgetary resources to implement the regular programme of work. In that regard, it was suggested that the use of such resources and their availability should be further addressed to ensure predictable sources of financing so that future mandated activities would not be affected, given that 14 per cent of the terminated outputs were attributed to vacancies and a shortage of extrabudgetary resources.

7. It was observed that consideration should be given to altering the timing of the programme performance report so that it more closely matched the budgeting cycle, and to including indicators of achievement in budgets which would further improve the basis of programme planning and monitoring. The provision of clearer expected accomplishments and benchmarks by which performance would be measured would help provide a basis for judging whether mandated activities had been fully implemented and would help guide decisions on resources. It was useful for programme managers and Member States to consider what was achieved in the past

as they considered future programmes and whether the current levels of resources provided were appropriate. In that regard, the provision of a clearer description of what was intended and reporting on what was achieved would help that consideration.

8. The language contained in paragraph 47 of A/55/73 was not as provided in General Assembly resolutions. The inferred linkages between programme planning, budgeting and the allocation of resources or results-based budgeting had not been discussed and agreed upon in the General Assembly. The programme performance report should be considered a tool for accountability on the part of programme managers and, therefore, consideration should be given to the participation of the Office of Human Resources Management, jointly with programme managers in the preparation of the programme performance report.

9. Concern was expressed as to the criteria used in reference to paragraph 29, as well as paragraph 42 of the report. In that regard, the view was expressed that further clarification, refinement and analysis were needed. Concern was also raised regarding the impact of reform and restructuring as reflected in the qualitative assessment sections for the Office of Legal Affairs (annex, sect. 6) and for UNCTAD (annex, sect. 11A).

10. The Committee commended the efforts by United Nations departments and offices aimed at strengthening monitoring modalities and performance evaluation. In recognition of the need to improve programme implementation by the institutionalization of computerized programme performance monitoring and reporting systems, the view was expressed that there should be a harmonized approach within the United Nations to ensure cost-effective strategies for computer-based monitoring systems development and application.

11. It was also suggested that the Office of Internal Oversight Services should carefully examine the inputs from substantive departments before including them in the performance reports so that the reports reflect objectively the actual performance by programme managers.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. The Committee noted with appreciation the overall high implementation rate achieved by the Secretariat. It requested all reporting entities to bear in mind that systematic and consistent programme monitoring were critical components of programme management, and all departments/offices that had not already done so should establish viable and compatible monitoring systems.

13. The Committee noted with appreciation the inclusion of the qualitative assessments, prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 53/207. However, some of the assessments were too general and not very helpful in determining whether activities had resulted in expected outcomes. To that end, the Committee looked forward to further refinement of future programme performance reports in full compliance with the revised Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Amjad Hussain B. **Sial** (Pakistan)

Programme questions: programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1998-1999 (item 3(a))

Report of the Secretary-General on ways in which the full implementation and the quality of mandated programmes and activities could be ensured and could be better assessed by and reported to Member States (General Assembly resolution 53/207, sect. V, para. 18)

1. At its 25th and 26th meetings, on 26 June 2000, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on ways in which the full implementation and the quality of mandated programmes and activities could be ensured and could be better assessed by and reported to Member States (General Assembly resolution 53/207, sect. V, para. 18) (A/55/85).

2. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of it.

Discussion

3. The improved quality and presentation was appreciated, although concern was expressed over the late availability of the report. The report was considered to be concise, clear and informative. The recommendations were based on thorough and sound analysis and were in line with the rules and regulations governing programme planning and monitoring. It was also observed that the full impact of the proposed approach was difficult to assess and, therefore, endorsing such major changes without more discussion on the full implications was difficult. It was also cautioned

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that, while achieving objectives was important, it should not be the overriding factor, and care should be taken not to compromise other United Nations principles.

4. It was emphasized that the linkage between the medium-term plan, the programme budget and the monitoring and evaluation of programme performance as instruments in an integrated management process was important, and further improvement of the process was essential. With the recent revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8), focus was being placed on achievements and accomplishments, and not only on outputs. It was noted that the formulation of the expected accomplishments in programme budgets could be further improved so that they were clearer and so that it was possible to judge whether they had been achieved at the end of the biennium. It was also observed that there were inherent limitations to the formulation of expected accomplishments and the measurement of achievements, although they were considered indispensable tools for effective monitoring. Systematic, consistent and effective monitoring could assist managers to implement mandated activities, thereby achieving the stated objectives and providing a tool to decide on problematic parts of the programme.

5. While acknowledging that performance indicators were necessary, it was considered that more discussion was required as to their form and as to who would establish them (programme managers or Member States) once the format of the medium-term plans had been adopted. The indicators should address the quality of achievement. The role of intergovernmental bodies in evaluating the implementation of outputs and services compared with the present situation needed to be clarified. It was noted that the proposed information on achievements would be additional to the quantified data on implementation, including information on uncompleted activities, as indicated in the report, which would increase the level of oversight for the Committee.

6. Several views were expressed on the timing and use of the programme performance report. The view was expressed that, while lessons could be learned from the programme performance report that could assist in the programme-planning process, a direct linkage between that report and the programme budget was not feasible and not in conformity with the regulations and rules. The programme budget was determined by legislative decisions and proposals of the Secretary-General. As the programme budget and programme performance report were prepared by separate entities in the United Nations and taken up at different times, it was difficult to see how they could be linked.

7. The view was expressed that managers should be responsible for achieving full implementation with the resources allocated, but it was also observed that programme managers needed to have a clear indication of what was required by Member States. The direct responsibility of individual programme managers to implement their programmes was stressed. The practicality and feasibility of programme managers, addressing the Committee to explain non-implementation, as suggested in the report, was questioned. The introduction and effectiveness of computerized monitoring systems was recognized, and the Office of Internal Oversight Services was encouraged to arrange the necessary training in this regard.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/55/85) and reaffirmed the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Amjad Hussain B. **Sial** (Pakistan)

Programme questions: proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (item 3 (b))

Programme 7
Economic and social affairs

1. At the 10th and 11th meetings, on 14 June 2000, and the 30th meeting, on 29 August 2000, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6 (Prog. 7)).

2. The Under-Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the activities of the programme, encompassing key aspects of the Organization's work in the economic and social fields. Appreciation was expressed regarding the clarity and concision with which all eight subprogrammes of the programme's narrative were presented. Satisfaction was expressed about the focus in the overall orientation of the programme on the special needs of Africa, the least developed countries and the promotion of South-South cooperation. Special circumstances and needs of transit developing countries should also be included in the orientation of the programme.

4. It was observed that the reference to more active interaction between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions should have been expanded and that there should be a closer link between the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council and the work of the General Assembly. It was also pointed out

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that the issue of support to non-governmental organizations and of interactions between the Council and non-governmental organizations should have been included among the objectives of the subprogramme.

5. It was stated that the concept of economic growth should be an integral part of the subprogramme on sustainable development. Reference to development targets should have been made. It was emphasized that South-South cooperation should be an important dimension of operational activities executed under the subprogramme.

6. It was stated that closer collaboration with other international organizations would continue in order to improve economic, social, demographic, environment, trade and other related statistics and to promote the systems in particular, including through training and other forms of technical cooperation.

7. An increase in the number of requests by users, including the Member States, for the Division's statistical data was emphasized.

8. It was observed that globalization should have been presented in a more balanced manner.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. **The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the approval of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, subject to the following modifications:**

Paragraph 7.1

In the third sentence, replace the words "eradicating poverty and to" with the words "promoting sustainable development, in particular to eradicate poverty and to address"; and after the words "the landlocked countries", insert the words "transit developing countries".

Paragraph 7.2

At the end of the paragraph, add a reference to the 10-year review of the World Conference on Education for All, to be held in Dakar in 2000.

Paragraph 7.7

In subparagraph (d), replace the words "the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and civil society" with the words "the United Nations, financial and trade institutions, non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders of civil society".

At the end of subparagraph (e), insert the words "by, *inter alia*, linking the outcomes of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council to the deliberations in the framework of the General Assembly".

Paragraph 7.8

After subparagraph (d), add the following subparagraph:

"(e) More effective interactions between the Council and trade as well as financial institutions".

Paragraph 7.9

Subparagraph (b) should read:

"(b) Usefulness of results of the interactive debates and panel discussions and dissemination of these deliberations, including through the Internet;"

Paragraph 7.10

In the second sentence, replace the words "seek to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women" with the words "ensure support to assist the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to increase its effectiveness and efficiency".

In the third sentence, replace the words "The mainstreaming of a gender perspective in every sector" with the following sentence: "An important objective of the subprogramme is to support the mainstreaming of a gender perspective at all levels"; and begin the next sentence by inserting the word "The" before the word "improvement".

Paragraph 7.12

In the second sentence, before the words "increasing the effectiveness of", insert the words "*inter alia*".

Paragraph 7.13

At the end of subparagraph (d), add the words "without prejudice to the provisions of Article 101 of the Charter".

In subparagraph (f), after the words "Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women", insert the words "and its Optional Protocol".

After subparagraph (f), add the following subparagraph:

"(g) An increased capacity of the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women as indicated in article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women."

Paragraph 7.14

At the end of subparagraph (b), add the words "the number of reports examined by the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women".

At the beginning of subparagraph (c), insert the words "Usefulness of".

At the end of subparagraph (f), insert the words "including the enhancement of the capabilities of the regional commissions to work as focal points for inter-agency coordination on gender issues within the United Nations system".

Paragraph 7.16

In subparagraph (a), after the words "activities related to", add the words "the Fourth United Nations Development Decade and".

In subparagraph (b), replace the words "as modified by further action and initiatives" with the words "and promoting also, in this context, additional measures and initiatives".

Replace subparagraphs (e) and (f), with the following subparagraph:

"(e) Providing assistance to Governments and the global community to further the implementation of major intergovernmental policy documents on ageing, disabilities and youth, including the International Plan of Action on Ageing and its revision and updates, the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and the World Programme of Action for the Youth to the year 2000 and beyond; facilitating access to information in these areas through, *inter alia*, the development of an Internet-accessible database on relevant policies and implementation thereof."

Paragraph 7.17

Subparagraph (a) should read:

"(a) More effective implementation of the commitments and policies contained in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development as well as the outcome of the General Assembly at its special session to be held in June 2000;"

Subparagraph (b) should read:

"(b) The provision of effective assistance to Member States in achieving the goal of eradicating poverty through decisive national action and international cooperation, particularly in the context of the objectives of the Social Summit;"

In subparagraph (e), replace the word "international" with the word "intergovernmental".

Paragraph 7.18

At the end of subparagraph (b), add the words "and its review outcome".

At the beginning of subparagraph (d), insert the words "The impact of".

Paragraph 7.19

The paragraph should read:

"The subprogramme will seek to ensure the effective and coordinated implementation of Agenda 21 and other commitments made during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable

Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly to review the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, and the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development as well as the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council on the recommendations of bodies responsible for energy and natural resources."

Paragraph 7.20

The paragraph should read:

"The Division for Sustainable Development is responsible for the subprogramme. The strategy will include:

(a) Promoting effective and coordinated implementation of the sustainable development agenda of the United Nations;

(b) Providing substantive support and bringing new issues within the context of Agenda 21 to the attention of the Commission on Sustainable Development for its consideration, including assessment of critical areas of sustainability;

(c) Following up on the decisions taken regarding the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development, with due attention paid to matters related to the provision of adequate and predictable new and additional financial resources to developing countries and support to the efforts of the countries with economies in transition; to changing production and consumption patterns and mechanisms for the transfer of technology to those countries, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed in Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21; to addressing poverty in the context of sustainable development; and to ensuring the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 53/7, in which it endorsed the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, and 54/215, in which it called for further action to ensure that the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, as a part of the overall new and renewable sources of energy agenda, is fully integrated and brought into the mainstream of the efforts of the United Nations system towards attaining the objective of sustainable development;

(d) Providing advisory services to Governments, at their request, in preparing national sustainable development strategies and related actions;

(e) Devising operational strategies to promote sustainable use of natural resources and energy, strengthening institutional, human resources and policy-making capacity in the area of natural resources, in particular water resources, and helping to develop and commercialize new and renewable sources of energy, as well as strengthening national institutions for the assessment and management of energy resources and related requests;

(f) Promoting and supporting North-South international cooperation in the area of sustainable development."

Paragraph 7.21

After the words "major groups" insert the words "as defined in Agenda 21"; and after the word "including", insert the words "women, youth, indigenous people".

Paragraph 7.22

Subparagraph (b) should read:

"(b) Increase in the number of collaborative arrangements and consultative processes involving the United Nations system;"

Subparagraph (d) should read:

"(d) An increase in technical cooperation activities in support of elaboration and formulation with a view to implementation of national strategies for sustainable development in accordance with the goal outlined in paragraph 24 (a) of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21;"

At the beginning of subparagraph (e), insert the words "Usefulness of".

Paragraph 7.24

In subparagraph (a), after the words "related data" insert the words "and metadata".

Paragraph 7.26

In subparagraph (e), after the words "routinely produce", insert the words "and analyse".

Paragraph 7.30

In subparagraph (b), after the words "trends and policies", insert the words "for development".

Subparagraph (c) should read:

"(c) Enhanced ability of Member States (i) to formulate national population and related policies, (ii) to improve their national institutional capabilities for the collection and analysis of national population information, and (iii) to enable application of this information for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly."

Paragraph 7.33

Subparagraph (a) should read:

"(a) Supporting the efforts of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and economies in transition to mobilize

financial resources for development by advancing the outcomes of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the high-level international intergovernmental event on financing for development to be held in 2001;"

In subparagraph (a), replace the words "advancing some of the outcomes of" with the words "advancing the outcomes of".

In subparagraph (b), the first clause should read:

"(b) Addressing, through research and analysis, issues pertaining to domestic resource mobilization, augmentation of official development assistance and increase in international private capital flows;"

Subparagraph (c) should read:

"(c) Providing the analysis of necessary actions to promote international financial stability to improve early warning, prevention and response capabilities for dealing with the emergence and spread of financial crises in a timely manner, and to reform the international financial system, while also remaining responsive to the challenges of development and the protection of the most vulnerable countries and social groups, including the evaluation of the role of the international financial institutions;"

After subparagraph (d), add the following subparagraph:

"(e) Foster closer collaboration and understanding among the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Bretton Woods institutions."

Paragraph 7.34

The paragraph should read:

"Noteworthy among expected accomplishments would be a constructive dialogue on macroeconomic policy issues in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council through systematic surveys of the global economy and substantive support to the policy processes, such as those relating to the high-level intergovernmental event on financing for development and the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries."

Paragraph 7.35

At the end of the paragraph, add the words "and the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries".

Paragraph 7.36

After the first sentence, insert the following sentence:

"Particular attention should be given to: (a) the strengthening of countries' policy development, institutional and managerial capacity to deal with globalization, and (b) the respective roles of the state and the market in the development process".

Paragraph 7.37

In subparagraph (c), replace the word "Governments" with the words "and in close consultation with Member States".

In subparagraph (d), after the word "challenges", add the words "and exploit the benefits".

Subparagraph (e) should read:

"(e) Development of analytical tools and options using adequate methodologies for impact assessment to respond to requests from Governments and international bodies for information, methodologies and assessments regarding the linkages between political and economic issues and policies, such as economic sanctions, imposition of coercive economic measures, the relationship between disarmament and development, and relevant aspects of post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction;"

After subparagraph (e), add the following subparagraph:

"(f) Interfacing and cooperating with organizations within the United Nations system in this field."

Paragraph 7.38

The paragraph should read:

"Expected accomplishments would include:

(a) Improved intergovernmental dialogue and facilitation of consensus-building and decision-making regarding the emerging consequences of globalization for the state;

(b) Broadened common understanding of and approaches to public management and changing Governments' capacities;

(c) Strengthened institutional and human resources of government capacities;

(d) Broader and deeper understanding of major effects of public administration and public finance on civil society;

(e) Improved interface and coordination between the intergovernmental and regional policy deliberations and operational activities of the United Nations system in the field of public administration, finance and development;

(f) Enhanced understanding of development of the Internet on the role of the state;

(g) Enhanced capacity to assess emerging vulnerabilities in government capacities;

(h) Improved understanding of complex regulatory practices for emerging global standards;

(i) Greater anticipation of governmental and non-governmental entities in the work of the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance."

Paragraph 7.39

After subparagraph (c), insert the following subparagraph:

"(d) The number and quality of analytical reports and publications on emerging issues in public administration and finance."

Legislative mandates

Under programme 7, Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/55, replace the words "(subprogrammes 1, 2 and 5)" with the words "(all subprogrammes)".

Under subprogramme 4, add the following General Assembly resolution:

"54/225 Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development"

Under subprogramme 6, delete the following Economic and Social Council resolution:

"1997/61 Integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits"

Under subprogramme 8, add the following General Assembly resolutions:

"54/107 Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

54/96 G Economic assistance to Eastern European States affected by the developments in the Balkans

54/54 T Relationship between disarmament and development"

and add the following mandate:

"Economic and Social Council decision

1999/59 Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions".

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Amjad Hussain B. **Sial** (Pakistan)

Programme questions: proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (item 3 (b))

Programme 19
Human rights

1. At its 17th meeting, on 19 June 2000, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 19, Human rights, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6 (Prog. 19)).

2. The High Commissioner for Human Rights introduced the programme and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the programme. It was stated that the promotion and protection of human rights was one of the priorities of the United Nations. The proposed programme was considered to be coherent and highlighted the central role of the Office of the High Commissioner.

4. It was stated that the responsibilities of the Secretariat and those of Member States should be better delineated.

5. The attempt to propose expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement was noted. It was stated that the indicators were difficult to formulate for human rights and that caution should be exercised in that area.

6. It was noted with concern that the right to development was not given sufficient attention. It was considered that the narrative should have included

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references to the effects of endemic structural adjustments and to the negative impact of the economic crisis at the international level which affected developing countries.

7. It was recalled that the promotion and protection of human rights was a top priority of the United Nations, including the development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law. The Committee expressed its full support for efforts of the Secretary-General to mainstream human rights throughout the United Nations system.

8. It was also noted that there was no agreement on human rights as a cross-cutting issue since support was also given for development as a cross-cutting issue in all activities of the Organization.

9. The following amendments were proposed to programme 19, Human rights, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005:

(a) Paragraph 19.1, Overall orientation:

(i) In the fifth and second lines from the bottom, delete the words "including the Declaration on the Right to Development" and "including General Assembly resolution 926 (X) on advisory services in the field of human rights," respectively;

(ii) Add a reference to Economic and Social Council resolution 1235 (XLII) of 7 June 1967 at the end of the paragraph or delete specific references concerning the right to development and advisory services;

(b) Paragraph 19.2, Overall orientation: At the end of the paragraph, add the following new sentence: "Furthermore, the Office has the responsibility for coordinating human rights promotion and protection activities throughout the United Nations system and for promoting intra-system cooperation and coordination in this area";

(c) Paragraph 19.3, Overall orientation:

(i) Rephrase the first sentence as follows: "The Office will continue to promote cooperation with the efforts made by Member States to implement the Charter's provisions on human rights and the internationally recognized human rights instruments adopted by the United Nations";

(ii) In the third sentence, insert "when appropriate" after "regional";

(iii) Redraft the first sentence as follows: "The Office will continue to promote cooperation between national Governments and institutions, civil society and the United Nations for the promotion and protection of human rights for all";

(iv) In line 9, replace "Priority will continue to be given to emphasizing the importance of human rights on the international and national agendas" with "Emphasis will be given to the importance of human rights on international and national agendas;"

(v) At the end of the paragraph, insert "human rights violations in all parts of the world, particularly" before "situations of international concern identified by ...";

(vi) At the end of the paragraph, replace "international concern identified by the Commission on Human Rights and other pertinent United Nations organs" with "human rights violations;"

(d) Paragraph 19.4, Overall orientation:

(i) In line 2, insert ", upon their request," after "States";

(ii) Reformulate the second sentence as follows: "Human rights (civil, political, economic, social and cultural, [including/and] the right to development) will be addressed in an integrated, interrelated and interdependent manner, by stimulating and coordinating action across the whole United Nations system.";

(iii) In line 11, insert ", the special procedures," after "human rights organs";

(iv) [In line 12, replace "strengthen, rationalize and streamline the United Nations machinery in the field of human rights, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 48/141" with "adapt the United Nations human rights machinery to its current and future needs";

(v) In line 12, delete "and to strengthen, rationalize and streamline the United Nations machinery in the field of human rights, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 48/141";

(vi) In lines 12 and 13, replace "strengthen, rationalize and streamline" with "strengthen and rationalize";

(e) Subprogramme 1, Right to development, research and analysis: in order to improve transparency and to better identify the different activities and accomplishments expected to be achieved by the Programme, subprogramme 1 should be separated into two, one for the right to development, and the other for research and analysis;

(f) Paragraph 19.5, objectives:

(i) Add a second sentence on the objectives concerning the research and analysis aspect of the subprogramme, possibly drawing on the first sentence of paragraph 19.5 of the current medium-term plan;

(ii) Replace "realize" with "promote the realization of";

(iii) Add "through research and analysis activities" at the end of the paragraph;

(iv) Add a new sentence as follows: "The subprogramme also strives to promote and protect democracy and the rule of law and to mobilize against racism and all forms of discrimination."

(v) At the end of the paragraph, add "including through undertaking research and analysis."

(vi) Replace the paragraph with the following: "The primary objective of this subprogramme will include promotion, protection and realization of the right to development. In this regard, the objectives will be to develop an integrated and multidimensional strategy for the implementation, coordination and promotion of the right to development in accordance with the Declaration on the Right to Development and subsequent mandates and the Vienna

Declaration and Programme of Action, aimed at facilitating action to be taken by relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including treaty bodies, international development and financial institutions and non-governmental organizations, for the implementation of the right to development as an integral part of fundamental human rights, ensuring the realization of the right to development across the human rights programme and by specialized agencies and United Nations treaty bodies; to promote national implementation of the right to development through coordination with State-appointed officials; to identify obstacles at the national and international levels; and to promote awareness about the content and importance of the right to development, including through information and educational activities."

(vii) Replace the paragraph with the following: "The primary objective of this subprogramme is to strengthen respect for human rights, including the realization of the right to development."

(viii) Replace the paragraph with the following: "The primary objectives of this subprogramme are to realize the right to development and to strengthen research and analysis capabilities in order to improve respect for human rights;"

(g) Paragraph 19.6, Strategy: rearrange the order of subparagraphs in the second sentence so that (b) becomes (a), (c) becomes (b) and (a) becomes (c);

(h) Paragraph 19.6 (b), Strategy: this paragraph should be part of a different paragraph, addressing research and analysis as a separate issue;

(i) Paragraph 19.6 (c), Strategy: delete this paragraph;

(j) Add a new paragraph 19.6 (d) as follows: "Strengthen international cooperation to eliminate the obstacles to the enjoyment of the right to development at the international level.";

(k) Paragraph 19.7, Strategy:

(i) In line 4, replace "to ensure" with "so";

(ii) In line 5, delete "all";

(iii) In line 6, replace "the" with "appropriate";

(iv) From line 13, delete the last 6 lines after "obstacles to development";

(v) In line 14, delete "civil and political rights, as well as";

(vi) Delete "in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council" in the last sentence;

(vii) At the end of line 15, insert a new sentence as follows: "In this context, structural and systemic constraints impeding the realization of national-level actions will be addressed at the international level."

(viii) In line 11, after "capacity-building", insert "as well as promote research and analysis to eliminate obstacles to development, not only at the national level, but also at the international level, as a result of the problems arising from globalization, such as marginalization, lack of access to commercial and financial mechanisms, debt problems and the decrease in international assistance for development. Proper consideration and support should be

provided to this subprogramme within the general framework of this programme,";

(ix) In line 15, after "cultural rights" insert "and promoting research and analysis to eliminate obstacles to the realization of the right to development."

(l) Paragraph 19.8, Strategy:

(i) In line 4, delete "the implementation of standards,"

(ii) In line 6, delete "and the preparation of new standards"

(iii) In line 7, insert "civil, political" between "of" and "economic";

(iv) In line 8, replace "economic, social and cultural" with "human";

(v) In line 10, delete "and procedures for" before "rule of law";

(vi) In lines 8 to 10, the reference "to promoting democracy" and "strengthening national human rights institutions" should be re-elaborated in order to reflect more properly the mandates adopted by intergovernmental organs regarding the role of Member States in the elaboration of these issues at the national level;

(vii) In line 15, insert "marginalized and" after "protection of";

(viii) In line 15, replace "such as" with "*inter alia*";

(ix) In line 15, insert "human rights defenders," after "such as";

(x) In line 15, insert "persons belonging to" between "of" and "vulnerable";

(xi) In line 21, delete "gross and persistent";

(xii) In line 22, replace "persistent" with "systematic";

(xiii) Delete reference to the outcome of the World Conference against Racism;

(xiv) Reformulate the last sentence as follows: "Activities also relate to specific situations of violations of human rights, and ...";

(xv) In the penultimate line, insert "national" before "institutions";

(m) Subparagraphs 19.10 (a) to (e): Replace the subparagraphs with the following:

"(a) System-wide integration of the right to development as an integral part of all human rights;

(b) Enhanced awareness, knowledge and understanding of human rights through research and analysis activities;

(c) Implementation of the outcome of the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and of the resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights dealing with the protection and promotion of human rights, in particular the right to development."

(n) Subparagraph 19.10 (a), Expected accomplishments:

(i) Delete "Wider integration/inclusion of a human rights approach, in general, and";

(ii) In line 4, delete "fundamental";

(iii) In line 4, replace "fundamental" with "all";

(iv) Reformulate as follows: "Wider integration/inclusion on the promotion and protection of the right to development, in particular, across the human rights programme and the relevant programmes of work of United Nations departments/offices and specialized agencies and of major international organizations and forums related to this issue;"

(v) Reformulate the second half of the sentence as follows: "... as an integral part of human rights, across the whole United Nations system as well as in major international, regional and national development agencies, organizations and forums";

(vi) Replace "Wider" with "United Nations system-wide;"

(vii) Replace with: "System-wide integration of the right to development as an integral part of fundamental human rights;"

(viii) Split the paragraph into two:

"(a) Further integration of human rights across the United Nations system;

(a) *bis* Wider integration of the right to development as an integral part of fundamental human rights;"

(o) Subparagraph 19.10 (b), Expected accomplishments:

(i) Replace "outcome" with "decisions";

(ii) Delete subparagraph 19.10 (b);

(p) Subparagraph 19.10 (c), Expected accomplishments:

(i) At the end of the sentence, add "giving proper attention to the right to development";

(q) Subparagraph 19.10 (d), Expected accomplishments:

(i) Delete reference to the World Conference on Racism;

(ii) Before "Improved implementation", add "Provide assistance, upon request from Member States, to enable the";

(r) Subparagraph 19.10 (e), Expected accomplishments:

(i) Insert "human rights defenders," after "such as";

(ii) In line 3, insert "persons belonging to" between "of" and "vulnerable";

(iii) Before "Increased recognition, add "Provide assistance to Member States, upon their request, to enable the";

(s) Subparagraph 19.11 (a), Indicators of achievement:

(i) Replace with the following: "A greater and more integral promotion by the programme to the efforts to enhance coordination in the protection and realization of the right to development in the organization";

(ii) Delete subparagraph 19.11 (a);

(t) Subparagraph 19.11 (b), Indicators of achievement:

(i) Include proper references to the different responsibilities of the Secretariat and the Member States to achieve this accomplishment (*sic*);

(ii) In line 2, after "decisions" insert "on civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development";

(iii) Delete subparagraph 19.11 (b);

(u) Add a new subparagraph 19.11 (c) *bis*: "Degree of fulfilment of the obligation by developed countries to official development assistance;"

(v) Paragraph 19.12, Objectives:

(i) Replace the paragraph as follows: "The objective of this subprogramme is to facilitate the effective functioning of the human rights treaty bodies and human rights organs and procedures established pursuant to United Nations human rights instruments.";

(ii) After "Families" add "and optional protocols to these human rights treaties, in particular the optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child";

(iii) At the end of the paragraph, add "as well as the Charter-based human rights organs, in particular the Commission on Human Rights";

(iv) Insert "and of the Optional Protocols to the human rights treaties" after "International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families";

(v) Delete "as well as ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families" and "established pursuant to United Nations human rights instruments";

(vi) In line 2, replace "achieve" with "encourage the achievement of";

(w) Subparagraph 19.13 (b), Strategy:

(i) Delete the subparagraph;

(ii) Insert "Upon the request of the Member States concerned," before "Facilitating";

(x) Subparagraph 19.13 (c), Strategy:

Delete the subparagraph;

(y) Subparagraph 19.14 (a), Expected accomplishments:

Delete the subparagraph;

(z) Subparagraph 19.14 (b), Expected accomplishments:

(i) Replace with "to promote a deep reform process on the working methods of the treaty bodies;"

(ii) Add a new subparagraph 19.14 (b) *bis* as follows: "an increased level of satisfaction with the support provided to the Commission on Human Rights,

the Economic and Social Council and the Third Committee of the General Assembly;"

(aa) Subparagraph 19.15 (a), Indicators of achievement:

Delete the subparagraph;

(bb) Subparagraph 19.15 (c), Indicators of achievement:

(i) Replace the subparagraph with "an improvement in the working methods of the treaty bodies, in particular on the examination process of periodic reports;"

(ii) An acceptable time limit should be specified;

(cc) Subparagraph 19.15 (d), Indicators of achievement:

A time limit should be specified;

(bb) Add a new subparagraph 19.15 (f) as follows: "decrease in the number of reservations to human rights treaties";

(cc) Add a new subparagraph 19.15 (g) as follows: "a reduction in the number and scope of State Parties' reservations to human rights treaties, particularly reservations contrary to the object and purpose of the treaties;"

(dd) Paragraph 19.16, Objectives:

(i) paragraph 19.16 (c) should become (a);

(ii) Add a last sentence as follows: "The overall objective is to translate international human rights norms into legislation and practice."

(ee) Paragraph 19.18, Strategy:

(i) In the first line, insert "upon the request of Member States" after "provide";

(ii) In the third line, insert "when appropriate" after "strategies";

(iii) In the fifth line, insert "non-discriminatory" before "regional and subregional organizations"

(iv) In the sixth line, after "subregional organizations" insert "that work in harmony with the principles and activities of the United Nations and are recognized by all Member States of the United Nations in the region,";

(ff) Paragraph 19.19, Strategy:

In the sixth and seventh lines, delete "urgent appeals and other";

(gg) Paragraph 19.20, Strategy:

(i) Reformulate the paragraph as follows: "The High Commissioner for Human Rights will establish in her office an emergency response task force in order to ensure quick responses to immediate threats of human rights violations in the discharge of her mandate.";

(ii) Delete the paragraph.

(hh) Paragraph 19.21, Strategy:

Replace the paragraph with the following:

"With respect to field activities, the objectives are to ensure the efficiency of field missions and presences through the maintenance of contacts with Governments, appropriate sectors of the United Nations system, international and regional organizations when appropriate and others, by supporting and developing such activities through the development of training programmes and materials for human rights field staff and training in human rights for the appropriate components of other United Nations field operations.";

(ii) Paragraph 19.22, Expected accomplishments:

Reformulate paragraph 19.22 so as not to infringe upon the sovereignty of Member States;

(jj) Subparagraph 19.22 (a), Expected accomplishments:

Insert "in those cases where it is appropriate" after "practices";

(kk) Subparagraph 19.22 (b), Expected accomplishments:

(i) Insert "when appropriate" after "implementation";

(ii) "which include all countries and take properly into account national specificities" after "human rights";

(ll) Subparagraph 19.22 (c), Expected accomplishments:

Replace with the following: "the adoption of proper and adequate measures by normative organs of the United Nations aimed at preventing situations of massive and flagrant violations of human rights;"

(mm) Subparagraph 19.22 (d), Expected accomplishments:

Delete the subparagraph;

(nn) Add a new paragraph 19.22 (e) as follows: "the establishment of national human rights institutions";

(oo) Add a new subparagraph 19.22 (f) as follows: "the improvement of the human rights situation in all parts of the world.";

(pp) Subparagraph 19.23 (a), Indicators of achievement:

(i) Paragraph 19.23 (a): Replace "enumeration" with "elaboration" and

(ii) Insert "when appropriate" after "adopted";

(qq) Subparagraph 19.23 (b), Indicators of achievement:

Delete the subparagraph;

(rr) Subparagraph 19.23 (e), Indicators of achievement:

(i) Replace with "number of human rights violations reported by United Nations mechanisms and procedures and the number of communications received by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights from individuals and groups alleging human rights violations."

(ii) Replace with "the evaluation of those situations in which normative organs on human rights demonstrate the capacity to prevent and find durable solutions to situations which indicate the possibility of massive and flagrant violations of human rights.";

(ss) Add a new paragraph 19.23 (f) as follows: "number of requests for which the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions responded favourably;"

(tt) Paragraph 19.23, Indicators of achievement:

Delete all indicators of achievement.

Legislative mandates

General mandates

Commission on Human Rights resolutions

Add:	2000/73	Composition of the staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Add:	1999/36	Right to Freedom of opinion and expression
Add:	1999/57	Promotion of the right to democracy

Subprogramme 1:

General Assembly resolution

Add:	53/135	Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

Commission on Human Rights resolutions

Add:	2000/10	The right to food
	2000/62	Promotion of the right to a democratic and equitable international order
	2000/82	Effects of structural adjustment policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights
Delete:	1999/61	The Question of the Death Penalty

Subprogramme 2

General Assembly resolution

Add:	2200 A (XXI)	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Conclusions and recommendations

10. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should carefully review programme 19, Human rights, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Amjad Hussain B. **Sial** (Pakistan)

Programme questions: outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (item 3 (c))

1. At its 28th and 29th meetings on 21 and 22 August 2000, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/55/186).

2. The Controller introduced the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2002-2003 and responded to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. The delegations reaffirmed General Assembly resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987 and noted that the proposed programme budget outline was submitted in accordance with those resolutions.

4. The timely submission of the outline was welcomed. It was hoped that the programme budget fascicles would also be submitted by April 2001, in compliance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

5. It was stated that the outline, as a political document, was an important step in the budgetary process since it gave Member States the opportunity to reflect on estimated overall resources prior to the submission of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium. The outline provided the Secretary-General's first indication of the resources that would be needed to carry out all the mandated activities of the Organization. The budget outline was a preliminary indicative estimate and not a preliminary programme budget. It was observed that

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the outline had been formulated in accordance with priority areas recommended by the Committee for approval by the General Assembly in the context of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 and that it would guide the Secretariat in implementing the objectives and mandates set by the Member States in an efficient and effective way.

6. The exclusion of a provision for special political missions was regretted. It was recalled that the Secretary-General, in his statement on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2000-2001, had indicated that the need to incorporate relatively large unspecified and unpredictable resource provisions within the budget after the adoption of the budget outline and mid-way through the biennium had to some extent undercut the basic purpose of the outline. Therefore, a better solution was required in order to adequately finance mandated political missions as needs arose without negatively affecting other mandated programmes and activities. Pursuant to the recommendations of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, a provision for special political missions in the programme budget outline had been approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/206 of 18 December 1998. It was stated that the relevance of the provisions of that resolution had been confirmed by the number of successful special political missions undertaken since then. Concern was expressed that the exclusion of a provision for special missions would give rise to a situation similar to one that occurred during the 1996-1997 biennium, where other mandated activities had to be curtailed to accommodate activities related to good offices, peacemaking and preventive diplomacy missions. There should not have been a linkage between the non-inclusion of a provision for special political missions and the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, which was yet to be issued and considered by the General Assembly.

7. It was stated that the Secretary-General should present complete and transparent proposals regarding preliminary estimates of resources for special political missions according to resolutions 41/213 and 53/206 in the proposed budget outline, which clearly indicated the overall level of resources envisaged for the budget 2002-2003. In that regard, it was requested that the General Assembly should be provided, during its fifty-fifth regular session, with all related proposals in the context of the proposed budget outline, in order to consider them in a coherent, transparent and integral manner.

8. Concern was expressed that the proposed budget outline did not contain resources for strengthening the security and safety of United Nations personnel. The importance of providing adequate resources for that purpose was emphasized. It was noted in that connection that specific provisions were not identified in the 2002-2003 outline for the follow-up of a number of special conferences held during 2000-2001.

9. The Committee took note of the increase in resources in certain areas of activities. In that regard, it recalled that all mandated programmes must be fully funded; in particular, the priority areas approved by the General Assembly must be allocated adequate resources in the detailed formulation of the proposed programme budget.

10. It was stated that all proposals that the Secretary-General would present for the budget 2002-2003 should be directed to ensure the full implementation of all

programmes and mandated activities. Any measure or procedure aimed at ensuring efficiency or economies should have the same objective.

11. The intention of the Secretary-General to revert to a number of issues and their effects on the outline later in the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly was noted. In that connection, it was observed that the exclusion of those activities envisaged for 2002-2003 in the programme budget outline limited the Committee's capacity to comment on the overall level of resources. It was stressed that the level of resources proposed in the budget outline should provide adequate resources for full, effective and efficient implementation of all mandated programmed activities.

12. It was observed that the elimination of obsolete activities, to be effected in accordance with Regulation 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, should not be carried out for the purpose of achieving savings. That exercise was a prerogative of Member States.

13. It was stated that budgetary discipline should not be equated with zero nominal growth or negative growth. The General Assembly should review the matter, as the United Nations was increasingly being denied the means and the necessary resources to implement efficiently and effectively its mandates and programmes. At the same time, the view was expressed that rigorous scrutiny would need to be undertaken to achieve additional cost-effective measures and simplified procedures in order to release resources for additional mandated activities and higher priority issues. Support was expressed for increasing the number of posts for the maintenance of the Integrated Management Information System.

14. It was strongly emphasized that, during the reform period, the United Nations, or any other United Nations system organization for that matter, must firmly adhere to the budgetary policy of zero nominal growth or even negative nominal growth. Therefore, when the Secretary-General submitted his additional proposals at a later stage, he must identify compensating economies so as not to affect the overall level of the budget outline.

15. It was noted that the priorities of the proposed programme budget outline reflected those of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

16. It was regretted that compensating economies were not identified in the proposed programme budget outline, as had been done in the last proposal of the Secretary-General.

17. Satisfaction was expressed at the Secretary-General's stated intention to pursue efficiency savings and identify obsolete activities for reduction and/or termination. At the same time, the question was raised as to why it was not possible to develop precise estimates of savings to be achieved from implementing mandated activities more efficiently and economically.

18. Questions were raised about the proposal to set the Contingency Fund at 0.75 per cent of the budget, especially in the light of information from the Secretariat showing that the Fund had been underutilized during the last five bienniums.

19. A view was expressed that special attention should be given to the projects initiated in the biennium 2000-2001, such as the United Nations Office in Nairobi, and the subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy. In that regard, it was

recommended to the Secretary-General to allocate enough resources to strengthen those projects in the context of the programme budget 2002-2003.

Conclusions and recommendations

20. The Committee considered the outline, using as a framework the four elements listed in paragraph 1 of the report of the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/213, annex I:

(a) Preliminary estimate of resources to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(b) Priorities, reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(d) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources.

21. The Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/55/186) and recommended that the General Assembly should give further consideration to all the aspects contained in the proposed programme budget outline, in the light of the discussions reported above and taking into account the following:

(a) The preliminary estimates should be adequate for the full implementation of all mandated programmes and activities, including the projects initiated in the biennium 2000-2001, according to legislative intent and in the most effective and economical manner;

(b) The Committee regretted that full information on the preliminary estimate of resources was not available in the proposed budget outline despite General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 53/206;

(c) The Committee recalled resolution 53/206, in which the General Assembly endorsed the proposal of the Secretary-General that provisions should be made in the budget outline for expenditures for special political missions related to peace and security expected to be extended or approved in the course of the biennium;

(d) While noting that the Secretary-General would reflect, in his budget submission, additional cost-effective measures and simplified procedures, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General's review of possible obsolete activities should remain within the context of relevant Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;

(e) The Committee emphasized that Member States should demonstrate their commitment to the United Nations by, inter alia, meeting their financial obligations in full, on time and without conditions, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules;

(f) The Committee recommended approval of the priorities contained in paragraph 10 of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for 2002-2003;

(g) The size of the contingency fund should be 0.75 per cent of the budget outline.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Amjad Hussain B. **Sial** (Pakistan)

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit (item 5)

Private sector involvement and cooperation with the United Nations system

1. At its 24th meeting, on 23 June 2000, the Committee considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Private sector involvement and cooperation with the United Nations system" (A/54/700) and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon (A/54/700/Add.1).

2. The Inspector of the Joint Inspection Unit, Francesco Mezzalama, introduced the report of the Unit, and the representative of the Secretary-General introduced the comments of the ACC thereon. The Inspector and representatives of the Secretary-General responded to questions raised during the consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. The timely preparation of the report was welcomed as it provided the first comprehensive picture available on a subject of growing relevance. The report was described as very informative, and specific mention was made of the usefulness of reference materials contained in its annexes. The report was thus seen as contributing to greater transparency on a question of current interest and as clarifying the intent and scope of recent initiatives taken in this field. The document was also considered to be thought-provoking, as shown by the extensive debate on it in the Committee.

4. The diversity of the mandates and activities of the various components of the United Nations system was stressed. It was observed that a necessary degree of flexibility should be preserved and excessively rigid procedures avoided. However, the existence of risks associated with increased links with the private sector were underlined. It was stated that great caution should be exercised in protecting the

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integrity and independence of the Organization and in avoiding conflicts of interest and undue influence. The private sector, it was observed, was unlikely to cooperate with the United Nations for purely altruistic motives. It was noted, however, that certain activities of the private sector were directly in consonance with the goals of the United Nations, and specific mention was made of its contribution to the eradication of endemic diseases.

5. Concern was expressed at the perceived increased reliance of organizations of the United Nations system on financial support from the private sector, which was considered to be directly related to the decrease in public funds available for development assistance. A strengthened cooperation with the private sector should not occur without the close involvement of Governments concerned, and the whole process should be carefully monitored by the relevant governing bodies and subject to intergovernmental oversight.

6. The view was expressed that the growing cooperation between the United Nations and the private sector should be pursued within a defined framework with clear objectives. The need was underlined for establishing a working group to examine this issue in depth and submit recommendations to the General Assembly. In this context, it was also observed that the global compact of the Secretary-General should be discussed by the relevant intergovernmental forum. Governments should provide guidance in making the global compact consistent with the national policies of Member States.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee noted the importance and timeliness of the subject of the report.

8. The envisaged increase in relations between organizations of the United Nations system and the private sector should take into account the integrity, independence and international character of the former. The Committee emphasized that cooperation with the private sector should be strictly in accordance with the relevant regulations and rules of the Organization and decisions of the General Assembly.

9. The Committee welcomed the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/54/700), with the following observations:

> **The Committee stressed the need for the organization to consider guidelines through intergovernmental process on relations with the private sector and to endeavour to ensure consistency of policy throughout the system. At the same time, it recognized the diversity of the mandates and activities of the various organizations of the system and the need to preserve a degree of flexibility.**

10. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council draw the attention of the governing bodies of all United Nations system organizations to the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on private sector involvement and cooperation with the United Nations system and to the importance and timeliness of the subject of the report.

11. The Committee also expressed the wish to be informed on further developments on this issue throughout the system.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Amjad Hussain B. **Sial** (Pakistan)

Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate [6]

1. The Committee considered agenda item 6, entitled "Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate" and reviewed the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations agreed to by the Committee on the matter at its thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions.

Duration of the sessions

2. It was expressed that, in view of the heavy workload of the Committee, the possibility of extending the duration of the sessions should be considered. Alternatively, its agenda should include fewer items or be biennialized, and consideration should be given to shortening the Committee sessions. It was also expressed that the duration of the sessions of the Committee should be respected in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976. It was also stated that the Committee should rationalize its work programme in order to make better and efficient use of the conference servicing resources allocated to it.

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Conclusions and recommendations

3. The Committee reaffirmed its commitment to meeting its terms of reference as contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) and its annex.

4. The Committee recalled paragraph 41 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 urging it to make further improvements in its programme and methods of work as would facilitate the full discharge of its responsibilities.

5. The Committee also recalled paragraph 46 of the annex to resolution 32/197 calling for measures to be taken by the Member States to facilitate representation at a high level of expertise and to ensure the continuity of such representation.

6. The Committee reiterated that the revisions to the medium-term plan, or in case of a new draft, legislative mandates should be included in the form of footnotes.

7. The Committee emphasized that, in accordance with paragraph 27 of part I of General Assembly resolution 54/249, all future programme budgets should include legislative mandates for programme narratives.

8. The Committee reiterated its recommendations that the relevant intergovernmental bodies, as well as the Economic and Social Council and the Main Committees of the General Assembly, should include in their programme of work an agenda item on programme planning for the review of the proposed medium-term plan and its revisions.

9. The Committee emphasized the need for brief and concise oral presentation of reports by the Secretariat.

10. The Committee emphasized the need for the presence of senior programme managers to assist the Committee in its deliberations on the agenda items pertaining to the areas of their respective responsibilities.

11. The Committee underlined the importance of effective implementation of its conclusions and recommendations.